

Message Text

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R 161300Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8783

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: US CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS WAHID ABDULLAH

REF : KABUL 4426

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN BY DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH TO WILLIAM DRUMMOND, LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN KABUL O/A JULY 14, AS PRINTED IN KABUL TIMES JULY 15. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DRUMMOND: I HAVE COME TO AFGHANISTAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REPUBLICAN REGIME TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THE DOMESTIC, AND ESPECIALLY FOREIGN POLICY OF THE NEW REGIME.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF CONCENTRATING
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TROOPS ON THE BORDERS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?

ABDULLAH: PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ONLY ACCUSED INDIA, BUT ALSO AFGHANISTAN OF CONCENTRATING TROOPS ON THE BORDER, AND OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

BHUTTO IS DISTRESSED OVER THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY WHICH IS GRAVELY CRITICAL AND MAKES THESE ACCUSATIONS, WHICH WE EARNESTLY REJECT, FOR DIVERTING PUBLIC OPINION IN PAKISTAN.

UNFORTUNATELY BHUTTO DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD:

DRUMMOND: WILL PAKISTAN MAKE ANY MOVE AT THIS JUNCTURE?

ABDULLAH: PAKISTAN DOES NOT HAVE THE COURAGE TO EVEN LIFT A FINGER AGAINST AFGHANISTAN. WE HAVE REPLIED TO AGGRESSION IN THE PAST, AND OUR HISTORY BEARS WITNESS TO THIS FACT. I MUST NOTE THAT NEVERTHELESS AFGHANISTAN IS COMPLETELY PREPARED TO MEET ANY EVENTUALITY.

DRUMMOND: HAS ANY CRISIS BEEN CREATED IN AFGHANISTAN AS A RESULT OF PAKISTANI LEADERS STATEMENTS, OR IS THE HEAD OF STATE ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS AND CONTACTS WITH OTHER LEADERS OF AFGHANISTAN?

ABDULLAH: NO CRISIS HAS COME ABOUT IN AFGHANISTAN. AND LIKEWISE NO CONCENTRATION OR MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS TAKE PLACE. YOU ENJOY THE FREEDOM OF A JOURNALIST. YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF AND ASK OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

DRUMMOND: WILL PAKISTAN TAKE ANY MEASURES FOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND CONCENTRATION OF ITS FORCES?

ABDULLAH: PAKISTAN HAS REALLY STARTED CONCENTRATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES TO SUFFOCATE THE VOICE OF FREEDOM OF PASH-TUNS AND BALUCHIS. THIS ATTITUDE OF BHUTTO RESEMBLES THE EVENTS OF 1971 IN PAKISTAN CREATED AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS OF PAKISTANI STATESMEN JUST BEFORE THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRY. BHUTTO IS MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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YAHYA AND HIS MILITARY PUPPETS. HISTORY'S JUDGMENT WILL PROVE THIS ASSERTION. BHUTTO EVEN USES THE HOLY RELIGION OF ISLAM FOR ADVANCING HIS OWN OBJECTIVES. FORTUNATELY THE WORLD OF ISLAM IS NOW FULLY AWARE OF HIS GAMES.

DRUMMOND: WILL THERE BE WAR?

ABDULLAH: NO, BECAUSE THE LEADERS OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE TOTAL

WISDOM, AND PROPERLY ASSESS THE CONDITIONS OF THE REGION IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED. AS I SAID THIS PROPAGANDA OF BHUTTO IS MERELY FOR EASING INTERNAL TENSIONS IN THE COUNTRY. AFGHANISTAN IS A PEACE-LOVING NATION WHICH HAS NEVER BELIEVED AND NEITHER BELIEVES IN ARMED CONFLICT AS A MEANS FOR ELIMINATION OF DIFFERENCES.

DRUMMOND: HAVE YOU MADE CONTACTS WITH INDIA ON THE SUBJECT, AND CARRIED OUT CONSULTATIONS?

ABDULLAH: NO, BECAUSE RECENT STATEMENTS BY BHUTTO IN REGARD TO CONCENTRATION OF FORCES ARE EMPTY AND MEANINGLESS PROPAGANDA, NOT WORTHY OF CONSULTATIONS.

DRUMMOND: IN YOUR OPINION WHAT MEASURES OUGHT TO BE TAKEN FOR THE REMOVAL OF THESE TENSIONS?

ABDULLAH: THERE IS TENSION IN PAKISTAN NOT IN AFGHANISTAN. AND WE ARE SO OCCUPIED WITH PREPARATIONS TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF OUR REPUBLIC THAT WE DON'T EVEN TROUBLE OURSELVES TO THINK MUCH ABOUT IT. REMOVAL OF PREVAILING TENSION IN PAKISTAN IS ABSOLUTELY THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

DRUMMOND: HAVE YOU MADE ANY NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN THROUGH THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HERE, OR THE AFGHANISTAN AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD?

ABDULLAH: NO, BECAUSE AS I SAID BEFORE, BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS ARE OF NO SIGNIFICANCE. THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN CREATED IN PAKISTAN ARE BORN OUT OF THEIR OWN SHORTSIGHTED ACTIONS, AND IT IS THEIR OWN BUSINESS. THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFUTED ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT AGAINST AFGHANISTAN BY BHUTTO SATURDAY EVENING. (REPORTED KABUL 4426).

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DRUMMOND: WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF YOUR RECENT VISIT TO TURKEY?

ABDULLAH: THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT WERE VERY BENEFICIAL AND POSITIVE. YOU CAN READ THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS RELEASED AT THE END OF THE VISIT SATURDAY EVENING IN THE KABUL TIMES.

DRUMMOND: WHAT WERE THE SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE VISIT BY MOHAMMAD NAIM TO IRAN?

ABDULLAH: ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT IS THE ARRIVAL OF A HIGH LEVEL TECHNICAL DELEGATION FROM IRAN WITHIN TEN DAYS IN KABUL TO SEEK NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DRUMMOND: HAS THE SHAH OF IRAN COMMITTED HIMSELF TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN?

ABDULLAH: THE MAGNITUDE OF IRANIAN ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON THE SIZE OF OUR PROJECTS. IRAN IS READY TO HELP AFGHANISTAN.

DRUMMOND: ANOTHER COUNTRY THAT YOU VISITED RECENTLY IS INDIA. HOW ARE YOUR RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY?

ABDULLAH: CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS OF AFGHAN AND INDIAN AUTHORITIES AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN REGARD TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE CRITICAL SITUATION OF THE REGION AS A RESULT OF IRRESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP IN PAKISTAN HAVE NOW ASSUMED THE FORM OF A TRADITION. OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA ARE VERY FRIENDLY. THERE IS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US ON ISSUES IN THE REGION AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

DRUMMOND: IS THERE ANY UNDERSTANDING THAT AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA TAKE JOINT ACTION VIS-A-VIS PAKISTANI PROVOCATION?

ABDULLAH: REGRETTABLY I CANNOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

DRUMMOND: ANOTHER SUBJECT WHICH HAS CREATED SPECULATIONS AND CONCERNS ARE AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ESPECIALLY AFTER THE VISIT OF THE HEAD OF STATE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THAT COUNTRY. WHAT ARE THESE RELATIONS LIKE?
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ABDULLAH: WE HAVE VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH ARE THE RESULT OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS SINCE THE TIME OF REVOLUTION IN THAT COUNTRY, AND AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE. THE SOVIET UNION HAS CONSTANTLY RENDERED AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED AND OF COURSE WILL CONTINUE THIS ASSISTANCE WITH GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN. THE PRESENT REGIME OF AFGHANISTAN IS VERY GLAD AND SATISFIED WITH ITS VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

DRUMMOND: IS THERE ANY PLAN FOR REINSTATING THE TREATY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND TURKEY WHICH FORMERLY GOT NOWHERE?

ABDULLAH: THIS TREATY IS NOW PART OF HISTORY. TIMES AND CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED AND AT PRESENT WE SEEK NEW HORIZONS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
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